

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide electronic benefits transfer program for children during school closures, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide electronic benefits transfer program for children during school closures, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Stop Child Hunger  
5       Act of 2021”.

1 SEC. 2. SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR  
2 CHILDREN PROGRAM.

Section 13(a) of the Richard B. Russell National  
School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)) is amended by add-  
ing at the end the following:

6 “(13) SCHOOL CLOSURE ELECTRONIC BENE-  
7 FITS TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9 “(i) COVERED PERIOD.—The term  
10 ‘covered period’ means a period in which  
11 an elementary school or secondary school is  
12 closed, operating remotely, or operating in  
13 a hybrid manner for 5 or more consecutive  
14 weekdays during the calendar year.

“(ii) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLD.—The term ‘eligible household’ means a household that includes 1 or more children who are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches under this Act or free or reduced-price breakfasts under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), including children eligible for such meals pursuant to section 11(a)(1)(F).

24 “(iii) FREE RATE.—The term ‘free  
25 rate’ has the meaning given the term in  
26 section 1101(j)(4) of the Families First

1           Coronavirus Response Act (7 U.S.C. 2011  
2           note).

3           “(iv) SCHOOL CLOSURE EBT CARD.—  
4           The term ‘school closure EBT card’ means  
5           an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card  
6           that is issued to an eligible household  
7           under this paragraph and limited to food  
8           purchases.

9           “(B) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall es-  
10          tablish a program under which the Secretary  
11          shall provide to eligible households school clo-  
12          sure EBT cards for the purpose of providing  
13          access to food for children during covered peri-  
14          ods—

15               “(i) to reduce or eliminate the food in-  
16               security and hunger of children; and

17               “(ii) to improve the nutritional status  
18               of children.

19           “(C) USE.—An eligible household may use  
20          a school closure EBT card only to purchase  
21          food from retail food stores that have been ap-  
22          proved for participation in the supplemental nu-  
23          trition assistance program established under the  
24          Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.

1           2011 et seq.), in accordance with section 7(b)  
2           of that Act (7 U.S.C. 2016(b)).

3           “(D) AMOUNT.—The amount of a school  
4           closure EBT card issued pursuant to this para-  
5           graph shall be, with respect to a covered period,  
6           not less than the value of meals at the free rate  
7           for each day of such covered period.

8           “(E) FUNDING.—

9                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—On October 1,  
10                  2021, and on each October 1 thereafter,  
11                  out of any funds in the Treasury not oth-  
12                  erwise appropriated, the Secretary of the  
13                  Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary  
14                  such sums as are necessary to carry out  
15                  this paragraph (including administrative  
16                  expenses), to remain available until ex-  
17                  pended.

18                  “(ii) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—  
19                  The Secretary shall be entitled to receive,  
20                  shall accept, and shall use to carry out this  
21                  section the funds transferred under clause  
22                  (i), without further appropriation.

23                  “(F) REGULATIONS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Oc-  
2 tober 1, 2021, the Secretary shall issue  
3 regulations to carry out this paragraph.

4 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Regulations  
5 issued under this subparagraph shall re-  
6 quire that—

7 “(I) children shall be eligible to  
8 participate and shall be enrolled into  
9 the program under this paragraph for  
10 a covered period without further ap-  
11 plication if the children are enrolled to  
12 participate in the free or reduced-  
13 price lunch program under this Act or  
14 the free or reduced-price breakfast  
15 program under the Child Nutrition  
16 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

17 “(II) local educational agencies  
18 shall support the administration of  
19 the program under this paragraph  
20 by—

21 “(aa) communicating to the  
22 State agency when any school is  
23 closed, operating remotely, or op-  
24 erating in a hybrid manner; and

1 “(bb) providing data on the  
2 children eligible to participate in  
3 the program under this para-  
4 graph;

5 “(III) State agencies shall pro-  
6 vide information on children eligible to  
7 participate in the program under this  
8 paragraph with the State agency con-  
9 ducting eligibility determinations for  
10 the supplemental nutrition assistance  
11 program established under the Food  
12 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
13 2011 et seq.); and

14 “(IV) State agencies conducting  
15 eligibility determinations described in  
16 subclause (III) shall—

17 “(aa) distribute the school  
18 closure EBT cards;

19 “(bb) provide information to  
20 households regarding the pro-  
21 gram under this paragraph, in-  
22 cluding eligibility rules and how  
23 children in eligible households  
24 that are not automatically en-

1 rolled under subclause (I) may  
2 apply for program benefits; and  
3 “(cc) administer the pro-  
4 gram under this paragraph in ac-  
5 cordance with regulations pro-  
6 mulgated by the Secretary.

7 “(G) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary  
9 shall carry out a program to make grants  
10 to States to support the development of  
11 data systems or upgrades to existing data  
12 systems that are necessary to implement  
13 this paragraph.

14 “(ii) FUNDING.—In addition to  
15 amounts made available under subpara-  
16 graph (E), on October 1, 2021, out of any  
17 funds in the Treasury not otherwise appro-  
18 priated, the Secretary of the Treasury  
19 shall transfer to the Secretary to carry out  
20 this subparagraph \$50,000,000, to remain  
21 available until expended.”.